

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY E. MILLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, by accident, I failed to vote on H.R. 1, the "For the People Act" while on the floor for the vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 62.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HECTOR
F. ELIZALDE**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion for veterans, a dear friend, a wonderful employee and colleague, a proud resident of the City of Monrovia, and a dedicated, caring gentleman in Hector Elizalde, our beloved Deputy District Director of the 32nd District, who died on February 7, 2021, from complications due to COVID-19. For the past 11 years, Hector was truly devoted to his job of defending, advocating for, and serving veterans and their families, and tackling any problem that came his way. He was the embodiment of what it means to serve one's nation and one's community, holding true to his pledge to never leave a soldier behind, whether on the battlefield or city street.

Hector F. Elizalde was born in Chicago, IL on February 15, 1946. He served in the United States Army from July 31, 1964, until he was honorably discharged on July 28, 1967. Hector later graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He worked for some of America's most recognized companies, such as Anheuser-Busch, Stroh Brewery Company, PepsiCo, and Don King Productions. His career advancements led the Elizalde family to live throughout the country, from 1984, in the states of Michigan, Connecticut, New York, and Florida until his return to California in 1997. Hector could have continued excelling in lucrative professions, but he had a great sense of duty to any and all fellow veterans, and also to his neighbors.

From the very first day he entered our office in the spring of 2010 until his very last on this earth, Hector honorably served the veteran community. Whether it was helping a homeless veteran find shelter or escorting the casket of a fallen servicemember at the airport, Hector's compassion for helping veterans touched countless lives. Giving out his personal cell phone number was nothing out of the ordinary, and whenever he did so, he made sure everyone knew that it was a 24/7 number.

Hector understood the frustration many veterans felt because of delays in VA benefits and routine health checkups that would take an entire day. He took this personally and vowed we must do better. Under his tenure as Military/Veterans Liaison, we began to hold an annual Veterans Forum, to bring the VA to the San Gabriel Valley, which grew in size and reach each successive year. As a result of

Hector's persistence and laser-focus on the mission, the San Gabriel Valley VA Health Clinic was opened in May 2019 in Arcadia, CA.

A sharp dresser, but very humble individual, he never sought nor wanted praise. He was there for everybody. He served not only the people of the 32nd District, but all of Los Angeles County, as Chair of the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission, to which he was appointed by LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

Since his passing, the outpouring from people whose lives he touched has been immeasurable, because he was a true believer in public service. From the many hours he spent resolving constituents' casework, to the city council meetings, weekend veteran and community events he would attend; for Hector, the public's needs always came first.

Hector is survived by his ex-wife, Elaine, the mother of his two adult children; sons Phillip and Edward; Edward's wife Ingrid; and their two children, Isabella and Aiden. Hector truly loved and was proud of his family, especially his grandchildren.

Hector made us all feel like family. He was kind, respectful, thoughtful, and helpful to everyone he met. His charisma and smile will never be forgotten. His laughter and the way he cared for others will forever live on in our memories. It was our honor to be able to work alongside him.

The world has lost a hero. Hector was the best of the best, and we are all better people because of him. There is no one else like him and probably never will be, but it is safe to say, our world needs more Hectors.

IN MEMORY OF LAURA COLE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember an extraordinary Maine woman, Laura Cole.

Laura lived her life purposefully, offering help and engendering hope and happiness as a partner, parent, volunteer, friend, business owner, and citizen of Maine. She understood the power of one person's voice and helping hand, and her spirit was contagious.

Laura exemplified the words of Edward Hale, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

It seems there was very little that Laura did not do, and she received several awards for her efforts, including the Presidential Volunteer Service Award in 2012, the Responder of the Year Award in 2013, and the New Maine Business of the Year for York County, Maine, in 2019. She spearheaded her community's Operation Santa program for kids and the annual Lebanon Community Festival. In the midst of this winter that has been darkened by a pandemic, she created two acres of holiday lights for the community to enjoy from their cars and drop off canned food to donate to local food pantries. And she used proceeds from her event photography business to support End 68 Hours of Hunger and buy lunches to support local restaurants and donate to first responders.

Not only did Laura devote her life to acts of kindness and caring, her final gifts were organ and tissue donations, providing lifesaving help and health to over a dozen people. In her honor, the family has established Laura's Legacy of Love as a living memorial project with a simple mission—to promote kindness by paying it forward in her name.

I am proud to have represented Laura Cole in the U.S. Congress—an indefatigable young woman who loved Maine and set an extraordinary example for us all.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF EMMIE
'BOOTS' BURK**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in celebration of Mrs. Emmie 'Boots' Burk to commemorate the very significant milestone of her 100th birthday.

Emmie Fulton Burk was born on Texas Independence Day, March 2, 1921 in Koblenz, Germany to an American military family stationed overseas. Growing up in the State of Georgia she learned the importance of family and tradition. She was a member of the first Girl Scout troop on Ft. Screven, Georgia (Tybee Island). When her father, MSgt. Benjamin Fulton was later stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Emmie moved to finish high school in 1939. She has been a proud Texan ever since.

In 1942, she married the love of her life, James William Burk. She helped raise their son and daughter and became very active in their children's school and extracurricular activities, as well as church and other community service. She was independent and career driven. After the passing of her husband in 1979, she worked to solely support herself eventually going on to work in the early stages of market research. After several years in the industry, she began her own company, Burk Market Research, growing it into a successful venture through the 1970s to 1990s.

A faithful public servant, she worked with the United States Census Bureau assisting with many monthly studies, to include current population studies. This led her to travel across our great country to many different areas, where she helped lead the count. In 1991, she received the Bronze Medal for meritorious service. Mrs. Burk retired in 2011 at the age of 90 with 43 years of service, making her one of the longest serving members in the Bureau's history.

Today you will find Mrs. Burk attending one of her great grandchildren' events. A strong family-driven mind, Mrs. Burk dedicates her time to family and making new joyful memories. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Burk and a tremendous life well-lived. I thank Mrs. Burk for her many years of public service. It is my hope that she will share her 100th with all her loved ones.

SUMGAIT, KIROVABAD, AND BAKU
MASSACRES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the Armenian American community in commemorating the pogroms against Armenians in the cities of Sumgait (February 27–29, 1988), Kirovabad (November 21–27, 1988) and Baku (January 13–19, 1990).

Thirty-three years ago, in the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait, peaceful Armenian residents were brutally targeted on the basis of their ethnicity and subjected to unspeakable crimes. The New York Times reported Armenians being “hunted” down and an account of a pregnant Armenian woman, who had been disemboweled. The U.S. Senate passed an amendment in July of 1989, noting that even the Soviet government had termed the murder of Armenians in Sumgait a “pogrom.”

The Sumgait Pogroms were the beginning of an escalation of violence against the Armenian minority, with a wave of anti-Armenian violence spreading to Kirovabad in November 1988 and to Baku in January 1990, which culminated in the forcible expulsion of 390,000 Armenians from Azerbaijan and the 1991–94 war over Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh).

In response to the Sumgait and Kirovabad pogroms, over 100 leading academics and human rights advocates, including the Executive Director of the NAACP and Elie Wiesel, placed an advertisement in The New York Times titled: “An Open Letter to International Public Opinion on Anti-Armenian Pogroms in the Soviet Union.” The letter appealed to the international community to condemn the atrocities and prevent further violence by stating: “The international community of states . . . must prove the authenticity of its commitment to human rights in order to ensure that, due to indifference and silence bordering on complicity, another genocide does not occur.” (July 27, 1990, The New York Times)

Unfortunately, Azeri attacks against Armenian civilians have only continued. In its latest bout of aggression against Armenia and Artsakh in the fall of 2020, Azerbaijan carried out indiscriminate attacks against civilians. A report by Human Rights Watch found that Azeri forces used inherently indiscriminate cluster munitions and artillery rockets or other weapons that did not distinguish between military targets and civilian objects. Multiple strikes hit residential homes in less than a minute, suggesting bombardment of civilian areas.

Today, Armenians are still held captive in Azerbaijan, with no planned date to be returned to Armenia. Armenian prisoners of war have been subjected to physical beatings and other inhumane treatment at the hand of Azerbaijan. The government of Azerbaijan must be held accountable by the international community, and I will continue to work in Congress to shed light on and learn the lessons of such past and present atrocities.

REMEMBERING BOB SMITTCAMP

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a San Joaquin Valley legend, Robert Smittcamp, who passed away on March 4, 2021, at the age of 79. I am deeply saddened by Bob's passing.

Bob was a one-man Valley institution. A businessman, philanthropist, and community activist, he headed both Lyons Magnus food company and Wawona Packing. He had a particular passion for expanding healthcare access and improving education, donating millions of dollars to enhance both sectors throughout the Valley.

I'm lucky to have had Bob as a close friend and mentor. I was among countless Valley residents who frequently turned to him for advice on Valley issues. His assistance was invaluable on critical issues such as the Valley water crisis and the 2008 recession.

Bob and I also spent many hours discussing how to bring high-quality, affordable healthcare to every Valley family. I valued his insights on that question because he developed innovative ways to provide healthcare for his employees, who he always viewed as part of his own family. I'm convinced Bob's approach provides a model for drastically improving healthcare for the entire country.

Bob epitomized all the virtues of the San Joaquin Valley. He was always available to help those of us who sought his guidance. But if you were looking for someone to sugarcoat a tough situation, then Bob was not your best option. He was an honest straight-shooter who'd give you candid answers whether you wanted them or not. That's why I always consulted him when I had especially tough problems that needed realistic solutions.

Bob's love for the Valley ran deep, and the region is richer in countless ways thanks to his contributions. He created jobs, ran companies that fed millions of people, shared his wisdom and experience with anyone who asked, generously funded deserving community institutions, and raised an exceptional family.

Bob was simply irreplaceable. He'll be deeply missed, but he leaves behind an incredible legacy of hard work, success, and unconcealed passion for the Valley and its people. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Annette, his children Brent, Lisa, and Brandon, and the rest of his family.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 1 on account of several major issues with the bill. First, this bill did not go through committees and proper deliberations. Second, this bill takes drastic steps to federalize our elections and infringe on States' rights. Third, this bill increases opportunities for fraud without proper guardrails or internal controls. To mitigate some fraud risks, I pro-

posed an amendment dealing with election audits, which was rejected by Democrats on the House Rules Committee.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEMBERSHIP ON CAPITOL POLICE BOARD ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Membership on Capitol Police Board Act, which would make the chief of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) an ex officio, non-voting member of the Capitol Police Board (Board). The Board oversees the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and security for the U.S. Capitol complex and is comprised of three voting members (the House Sergeant at Arms, the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper and the Architect of the Capitol) and one ex officio, non-voting member (the USCP chief). My bill would give the MPD chief the same status on the Board as the USCP chief.

The events and aftermath of the attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, demonstrate the need for D.C. membership on the Board. Not only would the MPD chief's membership on the Board help improve coordination between USCP and MPD, which helped save the Capitol and its occupants after USCP was overrun during the attack, it would force the Board to consider the interests of D.C. residents in its decision-making. The Board's decisions affect D.C. residents more than any other Americans, but no member of the Board has any obligation to consider the perspective and needs of D.C. residents. D.C. residents continue to bear the brunt of the security decisions the Board has made since the attack. For example, the fencing around the Capitol complex has forced D.C. emergency vehicles and residents to take detours and has prevented access to the Capitol grounds, which are used by neighborhood residents for recreation and relaxation.

I support the calls to evaluate whether the Board is the right mechanism to oversee security at the Capitol, but as long as the Board is in existence, D.C. should have membership on it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB
EGOLF

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Bob Egolf of Churubusco, Indiana.

For 65 years, Egolf worked in the grocery business. He started his career at John Shelton's IGA, located on North Main Street in Churubusco in 1956 when he was 14 years old. Seven years later, he purchased the grocery from Shelton in 1967, and in 1982 built a new store south of Churubusco on US 33.

Egolf's IGA is known throughout the area for its freshly cut meats and daily baked bakery